The Post-1996 retirees also receive 40% instead of 33% of commutation amount, enhanced gratuity upto Rs. 3.5 lakhs based on the last pay drawn and Dearness Allowance admissible thereon and 300 days leave encashment in the new scale as against 240 days in the old scale drawn by pre-1996 retirees and as such full terminal benefits of pre and post 1996 retirees cannot be compared. However, the grievances of some of the employees affected are likely to be redressed with the decision taken by the Government to step up pension to 50% of the minimum revised pay as on 1.1.1996.

Recommendation of Pay Commission Regarding DA to Pensioners

595. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Fifth Pay Commission recommended that the Dearness Relief of the Pensioners should be merged with their pensions periodically whenever the Dearness Allowance of the serving employees is merged with their basic pay;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this recommendation was not accepted by Government? and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether Government would reconsider the matter favourably so as to give some relief to the pensioners in the scenario of continuously rising prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir.

(c) The merger of DR with pension has been correlated with the merger of DA with pay. No proposal for such a merger is under consideration of the Government.

Strength of Senior Officers

596. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the total number of Deputy Secretaries, Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Secretaries working in Government of India and Commissions set up by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): A statement containing the desired information is enclosed.

Statement

Number of Deputy Secretaries/Directors, Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretaries and Secretaries working in Government of India and Commissions set up by the Central Government as per the appointments made through the Department of Personnel and Training, as on the 1st November, 1998

Sl. No.	Level	Total Number
1.	Deputy Secretaries/Directors	858
2.	Joint Secretaries	416
3.	Additional Secretaries	102
4.	Secretaries	135

Decision regarding pension to pre-1996 retirees

597. DR. D. VENKATESHWAR RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government in last week of October, 1998 have decided to revise the pension of Central Government retirees before 1st January, 1996 as per formula recommended by the 5th Pay Commission;

(b) if so, when would the order be issued for implementation; and

(c) by when the pension at the rate of atleast half of the revised scale be paid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE): (SH. KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The recommendation of the Vth Pay Commission to the effect that the pension of those Central Government employees who have retired prior to 1.1.1996 should be brought to the level of 50% of the minimum of the revised pay of the post held by the pensioner at the time of his retirement has been accepted. Necessary orders on the subject are under issue in consultation with the Ministry of Finance.

Mobile Phones/Pagers in Central Government Offices

598. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of Central Government employees carry with them, 'Mobile phone' and 'Pager' in the Central Government offices;

(b) if so, whether such a permission has been granted by Government;

(c) if not, whether instructions in this regard have been issued to all the Ministries/Departments; and

(d) what action Government propose to take in those cases where Central Government employees are found carrying Mobile Phone or Pager with them in Central Government Offices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SH. KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) According to the existing instructions, there is a ban on the purchase of cellular phones/pagers for *official use in the Government*. However, based on functional necessity and considerations, exceptions have been made in the case of a few Ministers and PS to Finance Minister.

There is no specific order to restrict mobile phone and pager in the Government offices except Vigyan Bhavan and Vigyan Bhavan Annexe where these are not allowed as a general practice.

निर्धारित लक्ष्य के अनुरूप खाद्यान्न उत्पादन को प्राप्त करने के लिए योजनाएं

599. **श्री कपिल सिब्बल:**
श्री बलवंत सिंह रामूवालिया:

क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि देश में 210 मिलियन टन खाद्यान्न उत्पादन का लक्ष्य प्राप्त करने के संबंध में तीन योजनाएं अनुमति के लिए योजना आयोग के पास लम्बित पड़ी है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो ये योजनाएं क्या हैं और प्रत्येक योजना की विस्तृत रूपरेखा क्या है;

(ग) क्या आयोग द्वारा इन योजनाओं को अनुमति देने के संबंध में अब तक कोई निर्णय लिया गया है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं और भविष्य में इन योजनाओं के संबंध में कोई निर्णय कब तक लिए जाने की सम्भावना है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री, संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा योजना और कार्यक्रम क्रियान्वयन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) से (घ) संभवतः यह सन्दर्भ नीचे लिखे कार्यक्रमों के बारे में है:—

1. चावल आधारित फसल प्रणाली क्षेत्रों में एकीकृत अनाज विकास कार्यक्रम (आई०सी०डी०पी० चावल).
2. गेहूं आधारित फसल प्रणाली क्षेत्रों में एकीकृत अनाज विकास कार्यक्रम (आई०सी०डी०पी० गेहूं).
3. मोटे अनाजों पर आधारित फसल प्रणाली क्षेत्रों में